

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02886 041437Z

47-40

ACTION OCE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 CCO-00 SY-04 EB-07 /018 W

----- 076406

R 041421Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2114

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2886

STATE FOR OC AND OC/S

STATE ALSO FOR A/SY FO FOR VERNE ST MARS

BEIRUT FOR RCO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, ASEC, SY

SUBJECT: DAMASCUS COMMUNICATIONS

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, DAMASCUS COMMUNICATIONS ARE TRANSMITTED VIA LEASED COMMERCIAL TELEPHONE LINE WHICH CAN BE RENDERED INOPERATIVE AT ANYTIME. THE POST HAS NO SECURE BACK-UP CAPABILITY.

2. INASMUCH AS U.S. GOVERNMENT RECENTLY APPROVED RADIO RIGHTS FOR SYRIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WE BELIEVE NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO INSTALL RATTY EQUIPMENT IN DAMASCUS. THE COMMERCIAL TELEPHONE LINE, OF COURSE, WOULD REMAIN OUR PRIMARY CIRCUIT AND RATTY WOULD BE OUR BACK-UP.

3. CRO BELL KNOWS CW FROM FOUR YEARS OF USAF CW INTERCEPT DUTY AND SCO REEVES, WHO HAS CW COURSE ARRIVING SHORTLY WITH HHE, COULD ACQUIRE CW COMPETENCE IN SHORT TIME. CRO BELL BELIEVES THE INSTALLING TECHNICIAN COULD PROVIDE REEVES AND HIMSELF WITH SUFFICIENT TRAINING TO OPERATE RATTY.

4. ALSO, BECAUSE OUR PRESENT EQUIPMENT EMITS ABOVE ACCEPTABLE LEVELS, POST STRONGLY RECOMMENDS SHIELDED ENCLOSURE SHOULD BE INSTALLED WITH NO FURTHER DELAY, AND RECOMMENDS THAT
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RATTY EQUIPMENT BE INSTALLED AT SAME TIME.

5. PLEASE ADVISE WHEN WE CAN EXPECT SURVEY TEAM TO VISIT
DAMASCUS.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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